Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph **[0083]** of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0083] Although it is preferred to form the suture retainer **34** of a biodegradable material, the suture retainer could be formed of a material that is not biodegradable. For example, the suture retainer **34** could be formed of an acetyl resin, such as ~~"Delrin" (trademark)~~ that sold under the trademark Delrin® (E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company). Alternatively, the suture retainer **34** could be formed of a para-dimethylaminobenzenediazo sodium sulfonate, such as ~~"Dexon" (trademark)~~ that sold under the trademark Dexon® (Covidien Syneture). If desired, the suture retainer **34** could be formed of nylon. Additionally, the suture retainer **34** may be made of a heat shrink material.

Please replace paragraph **[0090]** of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0090] Although it is contemplated that the suture **32** and suture retainer **34** could be made of many different materials, the suture and suture retainer may be formed of a plastic material which is a biopolymer. For example, the suture **32** and/or suture retainer **34** may be formed of polyglycolide which is ~~commercial~~ commercially available under the trademark ~~"Dexon"~~ Dexon® (Covidien Syneture). Polyglycolide is a crystalline material that melts at about 225° Celsius. However, the suture could be formed of a glycolide-based copolymer which is commercially available under the trademark ~~"Vicryl"~~ Vicryl® (Ethicon, Inc.).

Please replace paragraph **[0526]** of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0526] Once the suture has been moved to the desired location relative to the tissue in the patient's body, the suture may be positioned in the retainer while the retainer is disposed outside of the patient's body. Once the suture has been positioned in the retainer, the retainer is gripped by the applicator assembly **640**. The flange [[**192**]] **1192** on the force transmitting member **1172** and end surface **1194** on the energy transmission member **1170** of the applicator assembly **640** are effective to apply a predetermined constant force against opposite sides of the retainer to securely grip the retainer with the applicator assembly **640**.